[Translation]

Capacity on Broadcasting Transmitter at Darbhanga

496. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to increase the capacity of the broadcasting transmitter at Darbhanga;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The transmitting facilities at Darbhanga are not due for augmentation.

[English]

Production and demand of iodised salt

497. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the production and current demand of common and iodised salt separately in the country;

(b) the number of salt production units upto December 1990 permitted by the Salt Commissioner to commence commercial production of iodised salt and the corresponding installed capacity of salt production per annum; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure that the process of iodisation of common edible salt conforms to specified standards in view of the reported adhocism in iodisation process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) The production of common salt is 110 lakh tonnes per annum as against the demand of 100 lakh tonnes, while both production and demand of iodised salt is 26 lakh tonnes per annum.

(b) Upto December, 1990, 439 units with an installed capacity of 56.88 lakh tonnes per annum have been permitted to commence commercial production of iodised salt.

(c) Primarily it is the responsibility of manufacturers to adhere to the standards of iodised salt as prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. The Salt Department is also taking following measures to ensure proper iodisation of edible salt:—

(a) guidance and training in quality control;

(b) checking at random, consignments of iodised salt at manufacturing end in the quality control laboratories;

(c) deductions in claims of subsidy in respect of sub-standard iodised salt besides suspension of permission to manufacture iodised salt in case of regular defaulters; and (d) surprise checks at regular intervals.

Setting up of granite industry

498. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters of intent granted for setting up granite industry upto the end of 1990;

(b) the number of units in production at present, state-wise;

(c) whether export of granite is being done mostly in cut blocks; and

(d) if so, the reason why fully finished granite products are not being manufactured for export promotion?